

REMARKS

The courtesies extended by Examiners Kuhn and Wilkens in the phone interview of May 7, 2008 are noted with appreciation.

In the Office Action, claims 26, 27, 30-32, 34 and 52 were rejected under 35 USC section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In addition, claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 25, 26, 30-32, 34, 39, 40 and 51-53 were rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over König German Patent Document 19700330 in view of Winn et al U.S. Patent 5,131,449. Claims 4, 5, 27, 41 and 44 were rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over König and Winn et al, and further in view of Sells et al U.S. Patent 4,868,976. Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over König and Winn et al, and further in view of Lavin et al U.S. Patent 3,495,717. Claims 45 and 46 were rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over König, Winn et al, and Sells et al, and further in view of Lavin et al U.S. Patent 3,495,717. Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over König, Winn et al, and Sells et al, and further in view of Bentley U. S. Patent 5,271,174. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over König and Winn et al, and further in view of Fildes U.S. Patent 1,811,312.

By this response, the claims have been amended along the lines discussed in the phone interview, and are believed to patentably define over the references. In addition, the claims are amended so as to address the matters of language giving rise to the rejections under 35 USC section 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the cabinet comprises a back wall extending between a pair of vertically extending support members, and also calls for a pair of side walls, a top wall and bottom wall which cooperate to define an interior that is

accessible through an open front area. Claim 1 is also amended to state that the cabinet side walls and the storage components are configured to define a door-receiving space that is located inwardly of each side wall within the cabinet interior so that the storage components do not interfere with movement of the door sections into the door-receiving space when the door arrangement is moved to the open position. In addition, claim 1 is amended to state that at least one of the vertically extending support members is located rearwardly and laterally outwardly relative to one of the door-receiving spaces. Furthermore, claim 1 is amended to state that at least one mounting member extends through the door-receiving space and is engaged with the vertically extending support member, and that the mounting member is configured to support one or more of the storage components within the interior of the cabinet.

The combination of König and Winn et al is not seen to show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1.

As noted previously, König teaches a gun cabinet having a single door mounted to an edge of the cabinet by a set of hinges. The single door is carried by the hinges such that the door can be swung to an open position, or swung to a closed position. When in the open position, the door is swung away from the interior of the cabinet and is thus external to the interior of the cabinet.

The Winn et al reference discloses a cabinet with a retracting door arrangement. In Winn et al, the folded door arrangement is movable into a storage space 23 that is defined between the outside wall 6 and an inside wall 24. In Winn et al, the inside wall 24 extends to the back of the cabinet. Furthermore, the inside wall 24 of Winn et al occupies valuable space within the interior of the cabinet.

The König and Winn et al references, either when considered alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. In König, the support wall for the firearm mounting components extends throughout the entire

width of the cabinet, terminating immediately adjacent the cabinet side walls. In Winn et al, the inside wall 24 is a separate component contained within the cabinet interior, which extends to the back wall of the cabinet. The combination of König and Winn et al would yield a cabinet as in König having a separate inside wall such as 24 in Winn et al, with the support wall for the firearm mounting components terminating at the inside wall 24. This is in direct contrast to the present invention as set forth in amended claim 1, which recites that the cabinet side wall and the storage components are configured to define the door-receiving space that is located inwardly of each side wall, and that the mounting member extends through the door-receiving space and is engaged with the vertically extending support member, and also that the mounting member is configured to support one or more of the storage components within the interior of the cabinet.

The construction of the cabinet as set forth in amended claim 1 provides an efficient means for maximizing the usable interior space within the cabinet, while still providing a retractable door system in which the folded door sections are received within a space in the interior of the cabinet when in the open position in order to provide unobstructed access to items contained within the interior of the cabinet.

For the above reasons, amended claim 1 is believed to patentably define over König and Winn et al. Claims 3-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are believed allowable for the above reasons as well as in view of the subject matter of each claim.

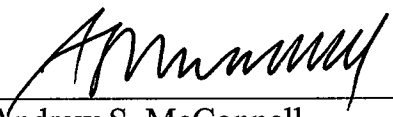
Independent claims 25 and 39 have been amended along the same lines as claim 1. For the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, it is believed that claims 25 and 39 also patentably define over König and Winn et al, and are allowable along with dependent claims 26-27, 31-32 and 34 (which depend from claim 25) and claims 40-41 and 44-46 (which depend from claim 39).

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Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 1, 3-13, 25-27, 31-32, 34, 39-41 and 44-46, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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